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## CIA Director Casey Speaks On War Against Terrorism

*Ed. Note:* Terrorism, no matter how repugnant the word may be, is on everyone's tongue after the *Achille Lauro* incident. It was commented on by Senator Durenberger at the most recent breakfast of the Standing Committee on Law and National Security (see separate story this issue) and in our October issue which reviewed a Senate committee report on terrorism and briefed a plenary session on "International Cooperation Against Terrorism" sponsored by the ABA in London.

On Monday, October 14, your editor was invited to sit in on a conference entitled "International Terrorism: The Threat to Industry." The audience was comprised primarily of American businessmen who have to cope with terrorism here and in foreign countries—be it kidnapping or attacks on their factories or banks.

The conference was sponsored by Stanford Research Institute International in cooperation with the World Power and Terrorism Project, Georgetown Center for Strategic Studies, and the State University of New York's Institute for Studies in International Terrorism. That's quite a mouthful for multiple sponsorship but let me hasten to add they brought together some of the world's experts on the organization, training and execution of terrorist acts. They ranged from Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable for Northern Ireland, to the former Governor for Civil Administration, Basque, Spain, and included two Israelis who have experience with terrorism.

The attention of the businessmen was captured straight off by the keynote speaker, Joel Lisker, chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. He told the businessmen that the infrastructure to implement terrorism in the United States exists today and only awaits a Shiite signal to go into action. If that didn't grab their attention a statement by Dr. Yonah Alexander did—that of 2,781 terrorist incidents between 1968 and 1985, 1,698 were directed against businessmen!

There will be more reported on this conference when the transcript is available. This brief description is meant to serve only as an appetizer to the "piece de resistance" which was served up at lunch by Bill Casey, the director of Central Intelligence. With his permission, excerpts from his text are reprinted below. No one can fail to understand the threat of terrorism to our country after reading it.

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In this conference, we have undertaken examination of one of the critical issues of our day, for perhaps no other topic poses as much of a threat to the orderly functioning of democratic societies as does international terrorism. The grim reality is that terrorism is on the rise

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The terrorist depends upon two factors for success in conducting his war on the mind. Both of these factors, ironically, are found only in the urban centers of open societies like ours and those of our friends around the world. The first, and most important of these, is coverage by the media. In this decade more people can be addressed by newspaper, television, radio, and magazines than ever before in history. What is more, the media is so effective that millions of people may learn of a terrorist attack that has taken place half a world away in a matter of minutes—or at most, hours.

The terrorist hopes that his deeds will be bannered on the six o'clock news throughout most of the developed world, will be commented on at length in the world's leading newspapers, and perhaps become the subject of everyday conversation.

Even if an attack fails, as in the case of the assassination attempt on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the terrorist will nonetheless gain the maximum psychological impact of his deed by a bold public threat. As many of you may recall, the I.R.A. in a public notice told Mrs. Thatcher that, "This time you were lucky. But you have to be lucky all the time. We only have to be lucky once."

The second factor that aids terrorists in their campaign is the nature of modern urban society. The concentration of population offers anonymity to the terrorist. Weapons and money can be obtained through an infinite number of channels, thus preserving the terrorist's operational security. The variety and efficiency of transportation enhances the terrorist's mobility. Moreover, industrialized societies have more vulnerable high-value targets—such as computer centers, airlines, factories, shopping arcades, and even apartment complexes.

### The Importance of Defense

Moreover, for the first time, terrorist attacks directed at American private businesses and businessmen overseas outnumbered terrorist attacks against U.S. military and diplomatic facilities. I speculate that this shift may be due in part to the greatly improved physical security measures taken by the State and Defense Departments. Terrorist groups may have concluded that American-owned businesses present "softer targets" that nonetheless yield very high-visibility headlines when hit.

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